

Appl. No. 09/303,313
Amdt. Dated January 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A method of treating inflammation comprising heating inflamed tissue at a temperature below 50°C for about 10-15 seconds, such that said heating induces apoptosis in immune cells. ~~The method of treating inflammation of claim 1~~ wherein said inflamed tissue comprises an atherosclerotic plaque.
3. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 wherein said heating is accomplished by a heat source positioned within the lumen of a blood vessel.
4. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 wherein said ~~heating is accomplished with~~ a heat source comprising a catheter.
5. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 wherein said ~~heating comprises heating with~~ a heat source comprising infrared radiation.
- 6-11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 further comprising treating said inflamed tissue with at least one chemical agent ~~agent~~.
13. (Original) The method of treating inflammation of claim 12 wherein said chemical agent is a cytokine.
14. (Original) The method of treating inflammation of claim 12 wherein said chemical agent is a growth factor.

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15. (Original) The method of treating inflammation of claim 14 wherein said growth factor is selected from the group consisting of insulin-like growth factor, vascular endothelial growth factor, fibroblast growth factor.

16. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim [[1]]_2 further ~~comprises~~ comprising treating said inflamed tissue with gamma-radiation.

17. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim [[1]]_2 wherein said heating step further comprises treating said inflamed tissue with radiofrequency.

18. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim [[1]]_2 further comprising treating said inflamed tissue with ultraviolet radiation.

19. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim [[1]]_2 wherein said heating step further comprises treating said inflamed tissue with microwave radiation.

20. (Currently amended) The method of treating inflammation of claim [[1]]_2 wherein said heating step further comprises treating said inflamed tissue with a heated liquid.

21. (Original) A method of treating an atherosclerotic plaque comprising heating an inflamed atherosclerotic plaque in the lumen of a blood vessel with a heat source having a temperature in the range of from about 38.5°C to 44°C for a period of time ranging from about 15 to 60 minutes and inducing apoptosis in a macrophage.

22-24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A method of inducing apoptosis in inflammatory cells associated with an inflamed plaque wherein said inflammatory cells are heated for fifteen (15) minutes.

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26. (Original) A method of inducing apoptosis in inflammatory cells associated with an inflamed plaque wherein said inflammatory cells are heated at a temperature of between approximately 41°C and 44°C.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) ~~A-The method of treating inflammation of claim 3 wherein said heat source comprises comprising heating inflamed body tissue by heating a stent that is in thermal contact with the inflamed body tissue.~~

29. (Original) The method of treating inflammation of claim 28 wherein the said stent is heated by microwave radiation.

30. (Original) The method of treating inflammation of claim 28 wherein the said stent is heated by radiofrequency radiation.